

From: Paula Fields (Sen. Bill Rabon) [Rabonla@ncleg.net]
on behalf of Sen. Bill Rabon [Bill.Rabon@ncleg.net]
Sent: 3/7/2018 11:13:51 AM
To: Senator Bill Rabon [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9ceeb3f15786498c8886c8889dad9532-Senator Bil]
Subject: [External] News Release: Senate Rules Chairman Calls for Legislative Hearing on Cooper Pipeline Scandal

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).



PRESS RELEASE
Senate Rules Chairman
Bill Rabon

(919) 733-5963
2010 Legislative Building
Raleigh, N.C. 27601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 7, 2018

Contact: Sen. Bill Rabon, 919-733-5963

Senate Rules Chairman Calls for Legislative Hearing on Cooper Pipeline Scandal

Raleigh, N.C. – Senate Rules Chairman Bill Rabon (R-Brunswick) called for a legislative oversight hearing Wednesday after a [WRAL-TV news report](#) shed light on how Gov. Roy Cooper’s administration deliberately altered a proposed \$58 million agreement with energy companies building the Atlantic Coast Pipeline to ensure those funds would be routed into what some have called the governor’s personal ‘slush fund’ instead of into state coffers.

The fund, which the Cooper administration announced just before granting a key permit to advance the pipeline, raised questions [across](#) the political [spectrum](#) about potential pay-to-play or pay-for-permit and prompted an ethics complaint about whether Cooper’s conduct violated the North Carolina State Government Ethics Act.

According to WRAL-TV, a top advisor for Cooper claimed his administration “had it in our heads” how the fund would work, but could provide no written details on how the funds would actually be distributed. According to the story, *“their pitch boiled down to ‘trust us’ as Republicans pointed to a memorandum of understanding giving the governor total control of the fund.”*

WRAL-TV corroborated its story with [documents](#) obtained from the Cooper administration through a public records request. But Cooper has yet to respond to multiple requests from lawmakers for the same documents, despite being required to provide them under state law.

“It is outrageous that the Cooper administration was [selectively](#) providing public records related to the governor’s pipeline scandal to a single news outlet while refusing to provide the same records to the legislature,” said Rabon. **“The WRAL report proves that Roy Cooper had his hand in the cookie jar and intentionally steered money out of the state treasury and into a personal ‘slush fund’ he could dole out at**

his whim.

“This story raises more questions than it answers, and given the Cooper administration has spent weeks dodging simple questions and refusing to comply with the Public Records Act, I am asking Sen. Berger and Speaker Moore to include Gov. Cooper’s pipeline scandal as an agenda item at the next meeting of the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.”

State law ([§ 120-19](#)) requires all state agencies to provide records and information requested by the General Assembly and state law authorizes the General Assembly to compel testimony and obtain public and private records via subpoena ([§ 120-19.2](#)) when state agencies or executives fail to deliver information in a timely manner.

###